

LifeGroup Study
THERE WILL BE TESTS
The Pure Joy of Being Tested
2022-03-20
Participant Notes

OVERVIEW:

Welcome to our series, There Will Be Tests. The Bible is filled with teaching about tests we experience in this life. In James 1:2-4, we read – “My brothers and sisters, consider it nothing but joy when you fall into all sorts of trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect effect, so that you will be perfect and complete, not deficient in anything.” We should expect to be tested. Testing can impact our faith in a way that strengthens us and grows our trust in God. For the first week of this series we’ll see how we can trust that there is a purpose in every test. Even in times of uncertainty, pain, doubt and fear we can hang onto joy, knowing that God will see us through.

ICEBREAKER: How I Studied for Tests

Think back to your days in high school or university/college. How did you study for tests? Did you pull “all-nighters”, studying through the night before your test? Did you go in cold, hoping you’d remember enough from your classes and notes to get by? Did you have an amazing system of how you organized yourself to study? **Share with the group how you studied for tests.**

STUDY:

The word “test” in the Bible means “to prove by trial”. We get this word from the world of metalworking. Just as silver and gold are refined in the furnace, so Christ-followers are refined through testing.

1. On Sunday Pete talked about how the tests (trials and difficulties) we experience are something God can use to strengthen our faith in Him. **What key idea did you take from Pete’s teaching on Sunday?**

READ: James 1:2-4

“My brothers and sisters, consider it nothing but joy when you fall into all sorts of trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect effect, so that you will be perfect and complete, not deficient in anything.”

2. Trials are certainly not enjoyable, but they can bring us joy. **What does James mean when he says, “ ... consider it nothing but joy?”**
3. James talks about “all sorts of trials”. Brainstorm together 5-10 examples of specific trials. **What are some differences between a trial, a consequence, an inconvenience?**
4. Think about James’ statement – “ ... the testing of your faith ...” **Why is it important for our faith to be tested?**
5. James tells us the desired result of our testing is that we would develop endurance. **How might you know you’re growing in endurance?**
6. “And let endurance have its perfect effect, so that you will be perfect and complete, not deficient in anything.” Think about how God is at work in your life. **In what ways do you see Him moving you toward being “perfect and complete”?**
7. When we face trials, we should ask what lessons God might want to teach us. **What has helped you see God’s purpose in your trials?**
8. Is there someone you know who is facing a difficult trial? **What can you do to encourage and support them during this time?**

PRAYER

This week let’s pray for Celebration Place, our kids ministry arm of Celebrate Recovery.

- Thank God as He continues to work in the hearts and minds of the Celebration Place Kids as their relationships with Jesus grow and strengthen; amazing to witness!
- Ask God to provide volunteers; pray that God will prompt them, and send us the people he has already chosen.
- Pray for the people you have talked about in today’s study who are going through trials. Ask God to strengthen them and help them persevere. Ask Him for wisdom to know how to come alongside to support and encourage them.